

The Black Panther Party

By: Hank Wyman

The Black Panther Party faced a lot of erasure in their 20 years of existence one of the main groups who tried to take them down was the FBI. They also faced erasure from the police department and people who were against what they were for. The FBI saw the black panther party as a great threat to the U.S government and sought to dismantle the party. The FBI started their campaign against the BPP in 1969. They exploited existing rivalries between black nationalist groups. In 1969 Chicago police gunned down and killed BPP members Fred Hampton, and Mark Clark in their apartment. About 100 bullets were fired of those 100 only 1 was from the BPP side of the gun fight. Although the FBI was not directly responsible for leading the raid it was later indicated the FBI played a significant role in the events leading up to the raid. Their goal was to weaken the black panther party and eventually take down the group. In the early hours of February 10, 1971, police surrounded a property in high point North Carolina, where members of the BPP lived and worked in the fight a BPP member was shot and so was a police officer. This provoked a movement within the Black Panther Party and motivated them to fight harder for what was right. Throughout their existence they faced many attempts of erasure but they created a legacy that will not be forgotten.

The Black Panther Party's culture is still alive today and we will always remember what they fought for and the great things they did for their community. One of the things they have done to help their community and a well known thing they did for the people in their community was when they provided access to medical clinics and free breakfasts for children. It had chapters in many different cities. Another way they have been able to keep their culture and legacy alive is how they kept distribution of free shoes and education and transportation to their community while they were existent. This is something that will not be erased because those community members were able to become great. The Black Panther Party faced lots of violence and hate but in the end they were able to create an impact during the civil rights movement that helped many people and will never be forgotten.